"A must have for any fan of these street-level heroes." – ComicsVerse

BENDIS
MARQUEZ
OEMING
PONSOR

THE DEFENDERS

KINGPINS OF NEW YORK

MARVEL

THE DEFENDERS

KINGPINS OF NEW YORK

THE DEFENDERS

KINGPINS OF NEW YORK

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6

MARVEL LEGACY

6

DAREDEVIL • LUKE CAGE • JESSICA JONES • IRON FIST

THE DEFENDERS

NOW WITH ADDED DEADPOOL!

MARQUEZ! 2016 J-Po?

THE DEFENDERS

I'M JESSICA JONES.

I'M A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR AND I FIND MYSELF WORKING CASES INVOLVING "PEOPLE WITH ABILITIES" ABOUT 90% OF THE TIME.

YOU PROBABLY ALREADY HEARD THIS, BUT ***LUKE CAGE***, MY HUSBAND, AND HIS BEST FRIEND, THE IMMORTAL ***IRON FIST***, AND, WELL... ***DAREDEVIL...***

(EVEN THOUGH WE ARE ALL PRETTY LEVELHEADED, GOOD JUDGES OF CHARACTER, WE HANG AROUND WITH A GUY DRESSED UP LIKE THE DEVIL.)

(BUT WITH GUYS WHO DRESS LIKE THAT, I'VE LEARNED TO FOCUS MORE ON THEIR ACTIONS.)

(***HIS*** ACTIONS ARE PRETTY PHENOMENAL.)

...THE FOUR OF US HAVE DECIDED TO GET TOGETHER AND, AS PUBLICLY AS WE CAN, LET EVERYONE ***KNOW*** THAT WE ARE TOGETHER IN--IN--

WE'RE GOING TO ***DO*** SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN OUR CITY...

...BECAUSE WHAT IS GOING ON IS ***NOT NORMAL.***

DO YOU ACTUALLY NEED A "FOR INSTANCE"?

PICK ONE.

EVEN FOR NEW YORK CITY THERE IS TOO MUCH %#@$ GOING DOWN.

TOO MANY PEOPLE SEEM OVERLY EAGER TO PREY ON OTHER PEOPLE.

AND IT IS GETTING SO THE GOOD PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THE HOUSE ANYMORE.

IT'S INSANE.

I HAVE A KID NOW.

A DAUGHTER...

AND THIS IS *NOT* THE WORLD I THOUGHT WE WERE SETTING UP FOR HER.

THIS %#@$ AIN'T WORKING LIKE IT WAS.

MAYBE I'M GETTIN' IMMUNE.

THAT AIN'T GOOD.

TOMORROW'S PROBLEM.

JUST NEED TO GET HOME.

I THOUGHT, BY NOW, THINGS WERE GOING TO BE SO MUCH BETTER.

AND NOW, SOMETIMES, IT EVEN FEELS LIKE EVERYTHING IS TURNING BACKWARDS.

UGH...

I'M NOT NUTS, RIGHT?

IT REALLY FEELS THAT WAY TO ME.

EVERYTHING JUST CHANGED.

HUAGH!

NOW WE'RE TALKIN'.

WE GOT RID OF THE KINGPIN AND NOW WE HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GUYS LIKE DIAMONDBACK?!

GSSKK!

AND THE BLACK CAT.

BOTH FIGHTING OVER THE SAME TERRITORY.

FIGHTING OVER WHO GETS TO SQUEEZE THE CITY INTO PULP FIRST...

CAN YOU BELIEVE *THERE'S A LINE* TO BE THE KINGPIN?

AIEAA!

SMASSHH

AGH...

DIAMONDBACK DOESN'T EVEN SEEM TO WANT TO FOLLOW *ANY* RULES...

...ON *ANY* CONCEIVABLE LEVEL.

DAMN, CAT, IF I HADN'T JACKED *MYSELF* UP A MINUTE AGO, I THINK YOU WOULDA REALLY GUTTED ME BACK THERE.

I ACTUALLY DIDN'T THINK YOU HAD THAT IN YA.

AND WITH ALL THE GUNSHOTS IN YA AND EVERYTHING...

...GOOD ON YOU.

YOU SURE *YOU* AIN'T TIPPIN' THE SCALES A LITTLE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS?

DIAMONDBACK IS THE *LAST* THING WE NEED.

"WE" MEANING US *AND* THE CITY.

YET *HERE* HE IS.

SPOK

HEY...

BOOM

SPOK

DAREDEVIL, DROP!

I HAVE THIS!

AGH!

WHACK

PUNK-ASS #@%$&#%, I ALREADY HIT YOU AT HOME ONCE!

YOU DON'T TAKE THE HINT!

I KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE.

I'M NOT WORRIED. MY BUILDING HAS A...

...DOORMAN.

THERE'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT HIM.

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I CAN SEE IT BRINGS UP ALL KINDS OF STUFF MY HUSBAND DOESN'T WANT TO DEAL WITH...

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE KNOW IF WE BLOW IT...

SPOK

UH...
OW.
WELL, CARL, I'M SURE YOU GOTTA LOTTA QUESTIONS FOR ME.
SURE...WHERE YA BEEN ALL THIS TIME?
HOW ARE YA NOT DEAD?
HOW COULD YOU SET ME UP ALL THOSE YEARS AGO?
HOW COULD YOU GO AND TRY TO RUIN BOTH OF US WHEN I LOVED YOU LIKE A BROTHER?
SURE...
PUH...
...FOR STARTERS.
TURNS OUT, I REALLY DON'T CARE.

AW, GOOD FOR YOU, BABY.

(PLEASE DON'T...RUIN THE MOMENT.)

(SORRY.)

SMUG SINCE THE DAY YOU WAS BORN.

I'LL GET US A NEW ONE.

UH-HUH.

DANNY WILL.

I KNEW WHAT YOU MEANT.

SWALLOWED

WELL, I FEEL BETTER.
THIS ISN'T GOOD.
REALLY, IT FELT GREAT.

HI, POLICE ARE ON THE WAY.
I CAN ALREADY HEAR THEM.
BREATHE.
→COFF←

THE COURTS ARE GOING TO TOSS THIS
HE'LL WALK.
NUH-UH.
HE'S AN ESCAPED CONVICT.
WE CAPTURED HIM ON THE RUN.

PFT! TRUST ME.
I KNOW A LITTLE THING OR TWO ABOUT HOW THE LAW WORKS.

"RETURNING TO YOUR HONOR'S PRELIMINARY HEARING CALENDAR...
"...UNITED STATES V. WILLIS STRYKER, 202332-32-2R34 ON.
"GOOD MORNING. CAN I ASK COUNSEL TO RE-IDENTITY THEMSELVES FOR THE RECORD?"
"GOOD MORNING, YOUR HONOR, MATTHEW MURDOCK FOR THE UNITED STATES."

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.
ARTIST RENDERINGS COURTESY OF *THE PULSE*
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YOUR HONOR-- THIS MAN, WILLIS STRYKER, IS A VICTIM.

LOOK AT HIM!

A VICTIM OF VIOLENT CIRCUMSTANCE EXACERBATED BY THE VIRUS OF VIGILANTISM THAT STRANGLES THIS CITY *HALF TO DEATH ON A NIGHTLY BASIS!*

YOUR HONOR...

I DO BELIEVE HE'S TALKING ABOUT US.

HE'S TALKING ABOUT *YOU*, DANNY.

SHH.

HE HAS BEEN SAVAGELY BEATEN BY MURDEROUS, THUG-LIKE VIGILANTES.

THEY HAVE ADMITTED, IN THE PRESS, TO STALKING AND PREYING ON HIM.

THEY HAVE *ADMITTED* TO TARGETING HIM.

THEY ARE IN COURT TODAY TO INTIMIDATE HIM.

DOESN'T MR. STRYKER DESERVE ALL THE SAME RIGHTS AS THE REST OF US?

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF, ONE DAY, ONE OF THOSE SPIDER-MANS OR DAREDEVILS OR ONE OF THOSE OUT-OF-CONTROL MUTANTS DECIDED TO TARGET *YOU?*

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF LUKE CAGE THREW A CAR AT YOU BECAUSE HE DIDN'T LIKE THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE?

YOUR HONOR, YOU *MUST* LET THIS MAN SEE HIS DAY IN COURT.

YOUR HONOR, IF IT PLEASE THE COURT, THE PROSECUTION WOULD LIKE TO REMIND COUNSEL THAT MISTER STRYKER *WAS IN POLICE CUSTODY* AND PARTICIPATED IN A VIOLENT ESCAPE.

MR. CAGE AND HIS ASSOCIATES WERE ABLE TO SERVE THE IMMEDIATE PUBLIC INTEREST BY STOPPING HIM BEFORE--

YES! LET'S TALK ABOUT THE *DEFENDERS.*

MY CLIENT DID NOT ESCAPE CUSTODY.

MY CLIENT ESCAPED THE MURDEROUS RAMPAGE OF *FRANK CASTLE.*

FRANK CASTLE ESCAPED.

MR. STRYKER *RAN FOR HIS LIFE* AND WAS LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SURRENDER TO AUTHORITIES WHEN HE WAS VICIOUSLY ATTACKED.

HE'S A MURDERING DRUG DEALER AND *HE SHOT A WOMAN THAT NIGHT!*

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF *ANY* OF THAT!

SHE'S IN THE HOSPITAL!

LUKE--

THERE WILL BE ORDER!

AND THESE *DEFENDERS* ARE *STILL* DESPERATELY TRYING TO PIN ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING ON HIM.

BECAUSE IF THEY ARE WRONG, OR LYING, THEN THAT IS BAD FOR THEIR BUSINESS.

MY CLIENT WAS BEING CARTED AWAY TO JAIL, HELD WITHOUT TRIAL, BECAUSE FOR SOME REASON, S.H.I.E.L.D. MADE IT LEGAL FOR THIS GOVERNMENT TO HOLD ANYONE BORN WITH SPECIAL POWERS WITHOUT PROPER DUE PROCESS.

BUT S.H.I.E.L.D. IS NO MORE, AND I SAY IT IS THIS COURT'S IMMEDIATE AND HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY TO PUT THE DAYS OF TREATING OUR POWERED CIVILIANS LIKE SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS IN THE HISTORY BOOKS.

WILLIS STRYKER IS A VICTIM OF VIOLENT CIRCUMSTANCES BECAUSE OF HIS BIRTHRIGHT!

I CAN ONLY HOPE TO THE GREAT GOD ABOVE THAT THIS CASE OPENS A DEEP INVESTIGATION INTO HOW THIS CITY AND STATE HANDLES VIGILANTISM!

AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW OF THE NOTES AS WELL AS REVIEWING, AT LENGTH, THE TRANSCRIPTS THAT WERE SUBMITTED, I DO BELIEVE THE COMMONWEALTH HAS MET A *PRIMA FACIE* BURDEN ON THE CHARGES AS LISTED IN THE CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS.

OBVIOUSLY, THESE CASES WILL, IN FACT, MOVE FORWARD.

WE'RE GOING TO TRIAL.

THE BAIL *WILL* REMAIN AS SET.

THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

YOUR HONOR!

MR. STRYKER'S PASSPORT WILL REMAIN CONFISCATED AS PART OF A BAIL ARRANGEMENT.

COURT IS NOW DISMISSED AS WE TAKE CARE OF SOME MINOR PAPERWORK...

HE HASN'T BEEN CHARGED WITH THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF *THE BLACK CAT* BECAUSE...

...THE ONLY WITNESS HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO SPEAK.

HE'S BACK.

RIGHT ON TIME.

TENACIOUS.

ANNOYING.

OFFICERS, BEN URICH.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER FOR THE *DAILY BUGLE*.

DOT COM.

IS SHE AWAKE?

EVERY TIME, YOU GONNA SAY YOUR NAME LIKE THAT?

JUST WANT TO KEEP EVERYTHING ON THE UP AND UP.

I MEAN, *EVERY DAY?* WE REMEMBER.

IS *THE BLACK CAT* AWAKE?

YOU DON'T FEEL WEIRD SAYING YOUR NAME LIKE THAT?

DID SHE COMMENT ON DIAMONDBACK FINALLY MAKING BAIL?

WHEN DID *THIS* HAPPEN?

TEN MINUTES AGO.

WELL, NO, SHE DIDN'T.

SO MUCH FOR THIS BEING A CUSH ASSIGNMENT.

HA!

MAN, DIAMONDBACK MADE BAIL?

I GUESS WE KNOW WHAT THE PUNISHER'S DOING TONIGHT.

WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE, BOYS!

I MEAN IT.
WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
NOW, WE TALKED ABOUT THIS, *HAMMERHEAD.*
AND I SAID, AS LONG AS I FEEL *COMFORTABLE* WITH THE SITUATION, *I'D* GO ALONG WITH IT.
DIAMONDBACK IS OUT ON THE STREET, AND ALL OF AS SUDDEN, I AIN'T COMFORTABLE WITH THIS SITUATION NO MORE.
THERE'S A GANG WAR COMIN'!
AND IT'S COMIN' TONIGHT!
YOU GUYS CAN STAY, BUT WE'RE STAYING, TOO.
OH! *WE* CAN STAY?
MR. HAMMERHEAD, ANY COMMENTS ON DIAMONDBACK'S RELEASE?
YEAH, THIS WHOLE TOWN'S @#$@#$@# #@#$@#!!
#$#$%^#$% @#@#$%!!
EXPLETIVE DELETED.
GOT IT.
I'D GO HOME, URICH. DIAMONDBACK IS FREE AND AIN'T NO ONE SAFE.
THIS IS THE LAST PLACE I'D BE.
"AND SO, HERE WE ARE... IN A KINGPIN WAR."
AND ME WITHOUT MY TOMMY GUN.
I KNOW I SAID I'D NEVER CALL IN THIS PARTICULAR FAVOR, AND I REALLY MEANT IT WHEN I SAID SO...
BUT I THOUGHT, THIS--*THIS* IS CRAZY-PANTS.
AND WHEN I THINK CRAZY-PANTS...

...I THINK

DEADPOOL

AWWW, YOU MAKE MY TINGLE-MAKER ALL TINGLY.

OKAY, DEAL TIME, MISS JONES: YOU MARRY ME AND ***I'LL BE YOUR SLAVEBOY.***

I'M ***ALREADY*** MARRIED.

HOW ABOUT YOU AND LUKE CAGE ***BOTH*** MARRY ME AND--?

GANG WAR.

CRAZY-PANTS GANG WAR.

HELP US AND YOU AND I ARE SQUARE.

ROB LOWE VOICE: THAT IS ***LITERALLY*** THE BEST OFFER I HAVE HAD IN THE LAST 19 PAGES.

ALIAS

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

FLIX

OH, HI.

THAT LAWYER IS *GOOD.*

HE'S THE BEST.

YOU CALLED IT--I DON'T UNDERSTAND THESE DEFENDERS.

I SHOWED THEM--I SHOWED THEM I HAVE THE BALLS TO WALK RIGHT UP TO THEIR FRONT DOOR AND BLOW THEIR ASSES AWAY.

AND THEY DIDN'T *FLINCH.*

I TOLD YOU, THAT DOES NOT WORK WITH THEIR KIND.

IT NEVER HAS.

I GAVE YOU THAT INFORMATION FOR A MORE SUBTLE PLAY.

I KNOW I MADE MORE NOISE THAN YOU WANTED, BUT--BUT I NEEDED TO PLANT MY FLAG.

NO, NO. THE NOISE IS FANTASTIC.

IT KEEPS EVERYONE BUSY.

BUT YOU *DO* NEED TO TIGHTEN THE ENDS NOW. BOTTLE IT UP.

THERE ARE NEW PLAYERS COMING IN AT EVERY TURN. A LITTLE CHAOS IS GOOD. TOO MUCH AND THIS CAN ALL FALL APART QUICKLY...

NEW PLAYERS?

ELEKTRA NATCHIOS IS IN NEW YORK CITY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS.

DOESN'T MEAN IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH US...

UH-HUH.

HOW ARE *YOU* FEELING?

SECOND WIND. I'M--I'M READY TO TAKE IT *ALL* ON.

GOOD. I TOLD YOU, THERE WOULD BE ADJUSTMENTS.

FOR *BOTH* OF US...

I, UH, I COULD USE SOME MORE...OF THE GOOD STUFF.

I CAN MAKE THAT HAPPEN.

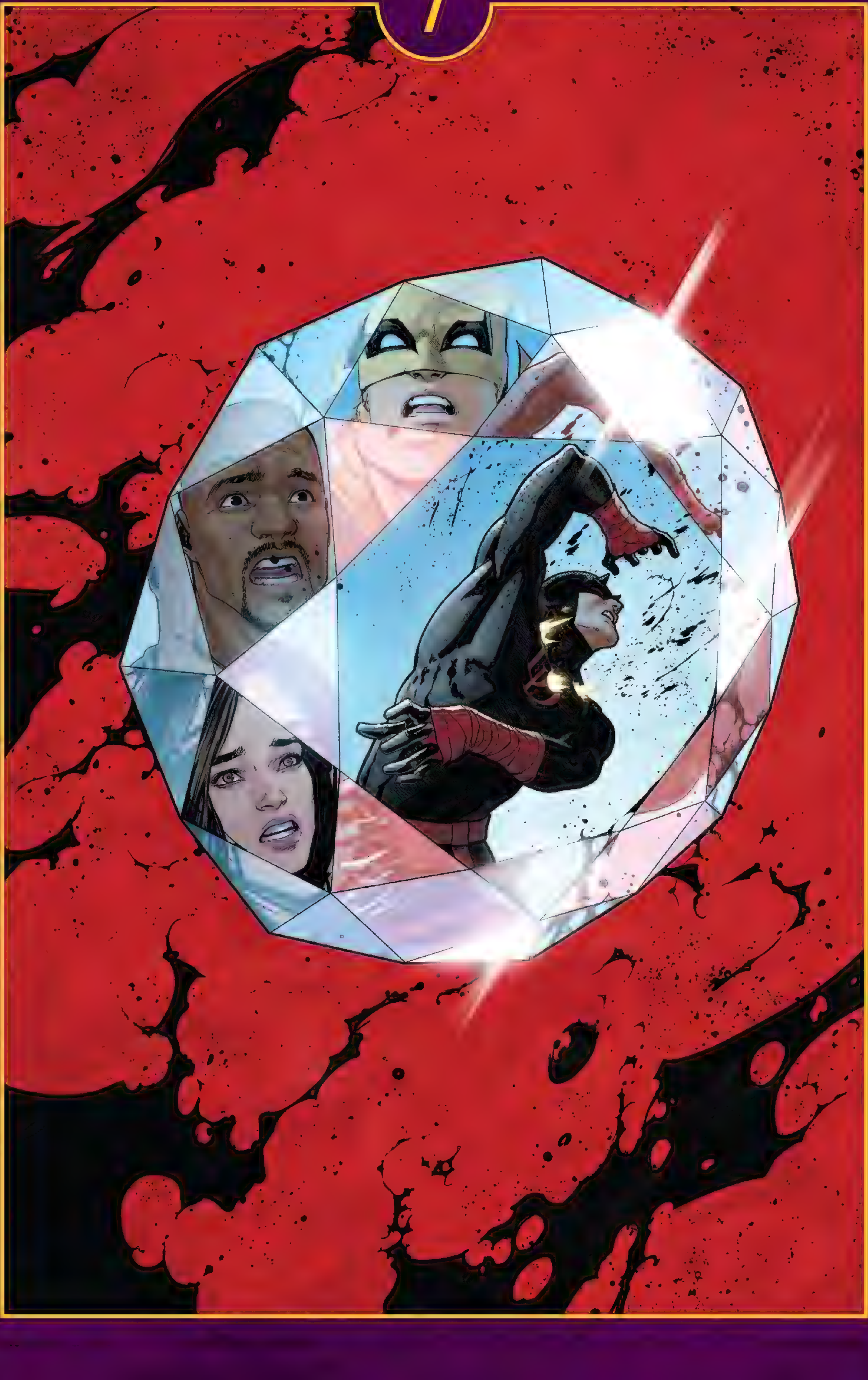
BUT *TELL* ME...

IN PRISON, IN COURT, TO THE POLICE...

...HAS *ANYONE* EVEN HINTED AT A CONNECTION BETWEEN *US?*

DID *ANYONE* MENTION THE NAME *WILSON FISK?*

7



THE DEFENDERS

PREVIOUSLY IN DEF--HOLD ON!
IT'S NOT THE WRONG BOOK.
FLIP AND LOOK AT THE COVER-- IT'S THE RIGHT BOOK. IT'S THE DEFENDERS.
ACTUALLY, SCRATCH THAT! WITH VARIANT COVERS THESE DAYS, WHO KNOWS WHAT'S ON THAT COVER?
IT MIGHT BE A 1987 JIM LEE DOODLE OF ROGUE THAT A MARVEL INTERN FOUND BEHIND THE COPY MACHINE IN THE BREAK ROOM.
ANYHOO, IT'S ME... YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD DEADPOOL.
AND IT IS MY VERY CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION TO EXPLAIN THE PREMISE OF THE BOOK RIGHT HERE ON THE RECAP AND CREDITS PAGE...
YA READY FOR IT? OKAY.
ACHEM...
LUKE CAGE, JESSICA JONES, IRON FIST AND DAREDEVIL ARE... THE DEFENDERS.
THERE YOU GO.
GLAD I COULD HELP.

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THE DEFENDERS

OH!

YOU'RE STILL HERE... SORRY.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT MY OWN UNTOLD ORIGIN STORY.

(IT'S ***REALLY*** GOOD.)

ANYWAY, ***DEFENDERS:*** THERE'S A BIG ***GANG WAR*** BREWING ON THE TEEMING STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY!

EVERYONE IS IN ON IT! DIAMONDBACK, THE BLACK CAT, HAMMERHEAD, VIC MACKEY FROM *THE SHIELD*, MAYBE A GUY FROM *THE WIRE*.

(I NEVER ACTUALLY SAW IT.)

OH, ***THE PUNISHER!***

THEY ARE ALL RUNNING AROUND BECAUSE THE FORMER KINGPIN, A.K.A. THE KINGPIN, GAVE UP HIS KINGPIN KINGDOM.

THE KINGPIN WENT KINGPIN LEGIT.

TOO LEGIT.

TOO LEGIT TO--

UHP! SEE? NOW ***THAT'S*** STUCK IN YOUR HEAD AND I DIDN'T EVEN COMMIT TO THE BIT.

OKAY, SO, THE GANG WAR IS BAD NEWS IF YOU LIVE ANYWHERE IN THE TRISTATE AREA...OR CARE ABOUT THE WELL-BEING OF YOUR FELLOW MAN.

AND I HAVE TO SAY, FRANKLY, AT THIS POINT, IF YOU LIVE IN THE TRISTATE AREA OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, CINEMATIC OR OTHERWISE, YOU'VE ***MADE*** THAT CHOICE.

BUT THE BREWING GANG WAR IS BRINGING EVERYBODY OUT OF THE WOODWORK...

AND JESSICA JONES, PRIVATE EYE AND MY ***SECOND*** EX-WIFE, CALLED IN A FAVOR AND TOSSED ME INTO IT, TOO.

BUT...!

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~~DEADPOOL~~
~~DEADPOOL~~
~~DEADPOOL~~

WhaT IS THIS 22

DEFENDERS

SORRY, NO BUT, I JUST WANTED YOU TO TURN THE PAGE.

YOU HAVE TO KEEP THE AUDIENCE ON THEIR TOES...

SEE, WE WERE TOLD TO ***REALLY*** BRING THE THUNDER FOR THE LEGACY STUFF.

I GUESS ***I'M*** THE THUNDER!

BUT WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF THE THUNDER WAS STORY CRAFT?

HMMM?

I MEAN, THE KIDS WORK ***REALLY*** HARD ON THESE THINGS.

AS YOU'LL SEE ON THE NEXT PAGE, *DEFENDERS* IS ***REALLY*** SOMETHING. BLOOD, VIOLENCE, SEX, CAMEOS...

OKAY, ANYWAY...

REALLY. THEY SIT ALONE IN THEIR BASEMENTS, SOMETIMES ***ALL DAY*** EVERY DAY, WITH NOTHING BUT EMPTY CARBS, TERRY GROSS AND THE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY TO THE ORIGINAL *BLADE RUNNER* LASERDISC TO KEEP THEM COMPANY.

I HEAR I KISS SOMEONE BY THE ISSUE'S END...

(IT'S THE PUNISHER.)

BEARD BURN BE DAMNED!

ALL THE WHILE YOU'LL BE WONDERING-- IS THIS EXCESSIVE RECAP JOKE COMING OUT OF YOUR PAGE COUNT?

IT ISN'T. CALM DOWN, 4CHAN. IT'S JUST FOR FUN. REMEMBER FUN?

FUN!

LIKE WHEN ***SANFORD AND SON*** WENT TO HAWAII AND THEY ACCIDENTALLY SWITCHED BRIEFCASES WITH ONE FULL OF DIAMONDS?

OR IN THIRD GRADE WHEN I LEGITIMATELY LOST MY UNDERWEAR! REMEMBER THAT? ***NO?*** WELL, HOW ***WOULD*** YOU?!

HEY! REMEMBER ***ELEKTRA NATCHIOS?*** NOT THE ONE FROM THE MOVIE, THE ONE FROM THE REAL-LIFE COMICS.

ELEKTRA! ***ELEKTRA, ASSASSIN!*** (WAAAAY AHEAD OF ITS TIME?) NO?

WELL, ***SHE*** WAS MYSTERIOUSLY SNOOPING AROUND ***HEROES FOR HIRE...***

LET'S FIND OUT WHY...

(DAMN, I SHOULDA BROUGHT SNO-CAPS.)

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS

<3s LUKE CAGE

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DEFENDERS No. 7, Ja... Published Monthly except In... WORLDWIDE ..., a su... MARVEL ... FIC... PUBLIC... N: 135 ... Str... ...ew ... ...TO... ...E, NY ... POSTAGE PAID AT NE... ...Y AND ... ADDITIONAL MA...ING OFF... © 2017 MARVEL ... similarity ... with any of the nam... characters, ...ons, ...or Instit...ns in thi... ...agazine with th... any liv... dead ... o... ...titu... inte... ...ar... ...y ... similarity wi... ...xist is ...ely coincidental. $3.... ...er copy ... U.S. (GST #R12707... 2) in the ... ...ma... ...dia ...reement ... 668537. Pr... In the U... Subscri... ...ate ... ...dre... ...r 17... ...es: ...nada ... ...ign $4... POSTMASTER: SEN... ...L ADDRES... ...ANGES TO DEFE...S, C/O M... ...IPTIONS ..., BOX 727 ... HYDE ... NY 11... ...LEPHO... (888) ... ...) 53... ...sub...ptio... ...om. D... ...UCKLEY, President, M... Entertainm... JOE QUESADA ...ef Creative ...cer; TO... ...REVOO... ...VP of Publis... DAVI... ...ART, SV... Business ...airs & ...ons, ...ng & P...nership; C... ...SKI... Brand M...agement & Developme...s; ...VID ...EL, SVP of Sale... Marketing, ...shing; ...F YOUN...ST..., ...& Special Projec... DAN CARR..., Executive ...itor of Pu...ing Technology; AL... ...of Publishing Operations; SUSA... RESP..., ...tion Manager; STAN LEE, Chairma... ...eritus. ...r inform...n regar...dvertising ...Marvel Co...ics or on M...vel.com, please contact Jonathan Parkhideh, V... ...Digital Media & Marketing Solutions, at jparkhideh...marvel.com. For Marvel subscription inquiries, pl...se call 888-511-5480. Manufactured between 10/20/2017 and 10/31/2017 by LSC COMMUNICATIONS INC., GLASGOW, KY, USA.

BUT THE REAL COVER IS THE FRIENDS WE MADE ALONG THE WAY

HIS career choices RIGHT NOW?)

(DO YOU THINK HE regrets

also DEADPOOL

DEADPOOL

DEADPOOL

DEADPOOL

DEADPOOL

POOL

POOL

POOL

WhaT IS THIS???

HI, ELEKTRA, *I'M DANNY.*

BUT YOU CAN CALL ME *THE IMMORTAL IRON FIST* IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL MORE INTIMIDATED AND LESS LIKELY TO STAB ME WITH YOUR STABBERS.

HELLO, MR. RAND.

HAVE WE MET BEFORE?

MANY TIMES.

I THOUGHT SO.

HAVE WE FOUGHT EACH OTHER?

SURPRISINGLY, NO.

THAT *IS* SURPRISING.

I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO DESIRE TO FIGHT YOU.

OH!

OH OH OH!

I *REALLY* WISH YOU WOULD HAVE LEFT A NOTE THAT *SAID* THAT BACK IN MY OFFICE THAT YOU BROKE INTO.

YOU ARE A LEGENDARY FIGHTER AND I RESPECT YOU IMMENSELY.

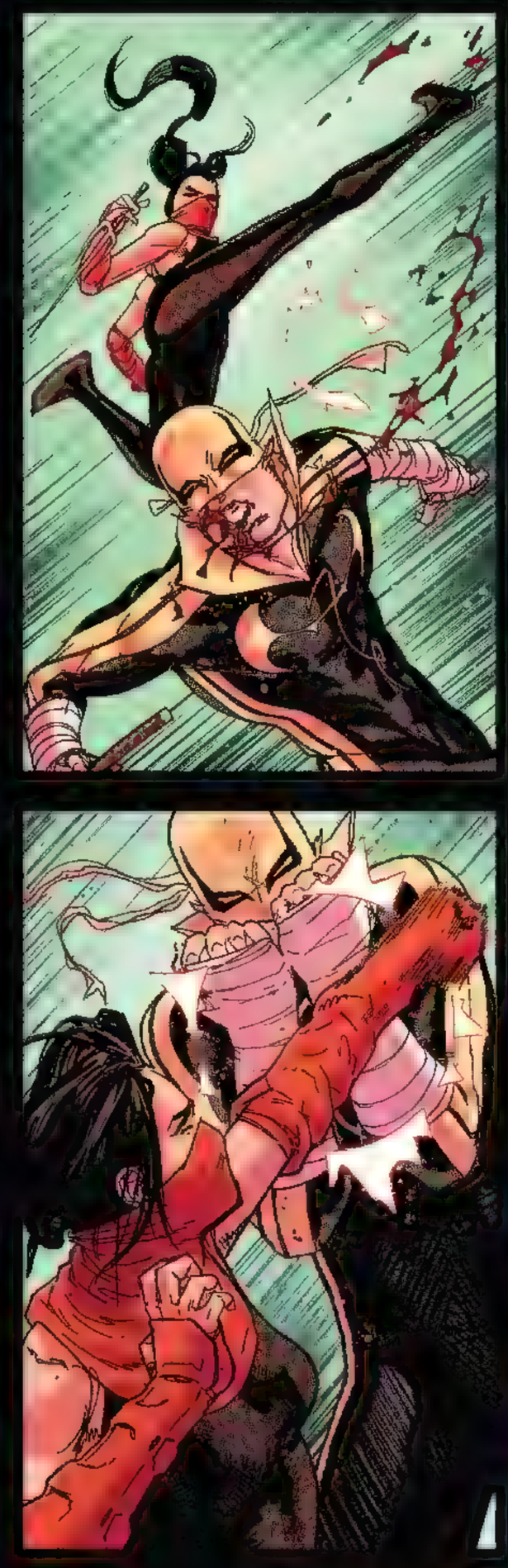
THEN TELL ME WHY YOU BROKE INTO MY OFFICE...

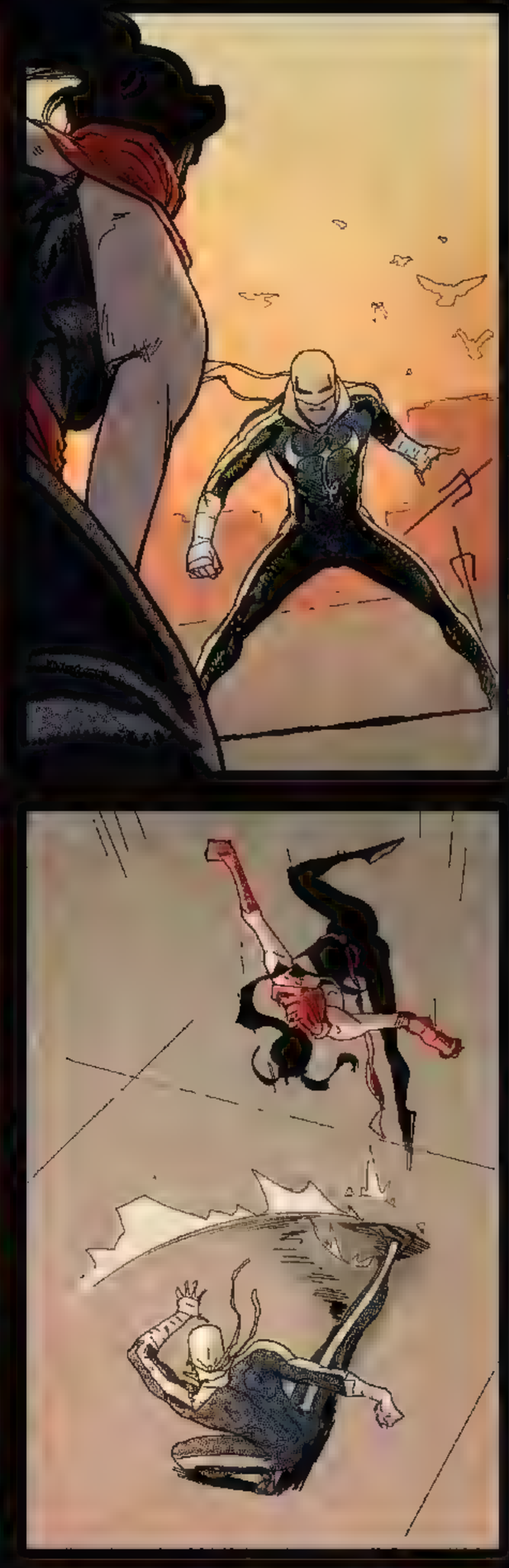
...AND THEN DEDICATE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE TO *HELPING* OTHERS.

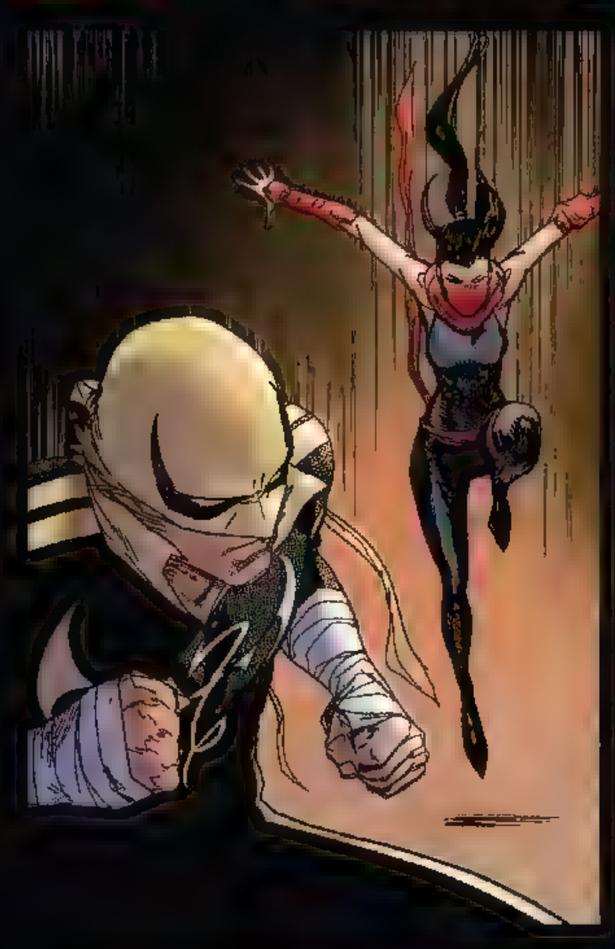
FAREWELL, MR. RAND.

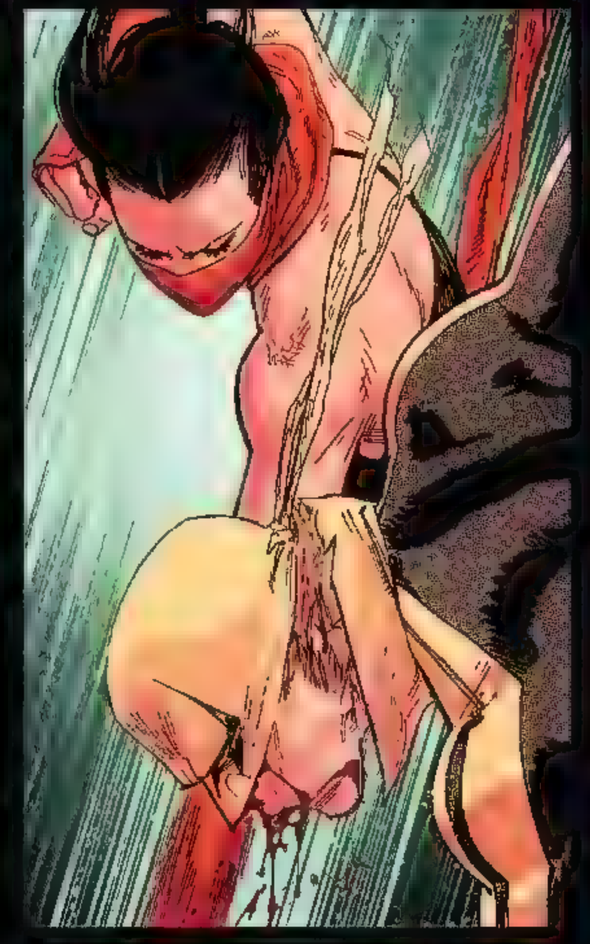
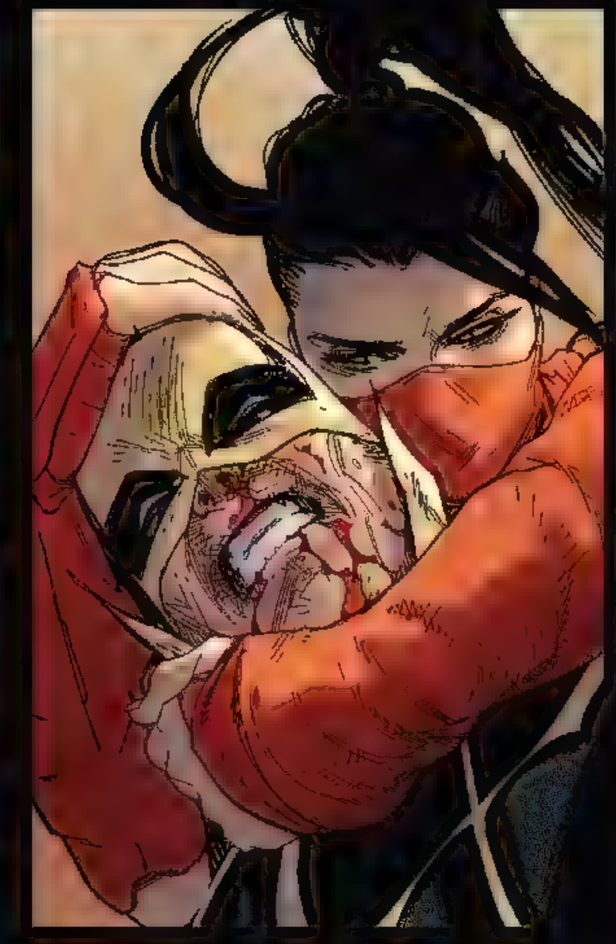
OH, NO!

THIS IS *NOT* HOW THIS IS GOING TO GO--







REALLY?
YOU COULDN'T HELP?
NO.
I DIDN'T GET ANYTHING-- OW--OUT OF HER.
I KNOW.
THAT REALLY HURT.
I KNOW.
HOW DO YOU KNOW HER?
"YOU KNOW WHAT I FIND MOST OF THE TIME?"
OH...
COLLEGE GIRLFRIEND.
HA!

EVEN WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE IT AT FIRST LOOK, *EVERYTHING* TURNS OUT TO BE A BLESSIN' IN DISGUISE.

YOUR MOUTH TO GOD'S EARS, SISTER.

A PROPERTY LIKE THIS, MISTER STRYKER--SO LUCKY!

YOUR UNCLE DIES, IT *IS* SAD, BUT HE LEFT YOU A *REAL TREASURE.*

CLOSED FOR REPAIRS

IT'S JUST *BEGGING* FOR REINVENTION. BEGGING.

I KNOW SOME PEOPLE--WE CAN BRING IT BACK TO ITS GLORY DAYS.

FIRST OF ALL, DJs ARE OUT. LIVE MUSIC IS WHERE IT'S AT.

LIKE JAZZ?

I WISH. ACTUALLY, *CABARET* IS MAKING A BIG COMEBACK--

CAN I HELP YOU?

CLUB'S CLOSED.

I, UM, I THOUGHT YOU SAID THIS WAS *YOUR* CLUB.

THAT YOUR DEAD UNCLE HAMMER--

(OH, I THINK I GET IT NOW.)

REALLY?!

THIS IS HOW IT'S GOING TO GO?

DIAMONDBACK'S JUST GONNA *WALK RIGHT IN OFF THE STREET?*

FIRST YA TRY TO WHACK *THE BLACK CAT,* YA BLEW IT, AND *NOW* YA JUST *WALK RIGHT IN HERE?*

THERE'S A *HISTORY* HERE, ACTUALLY.

BEFORE BLACK CAT OWNED IT, THIS USED TO BE CALLED THE EXCELSIOR CLUB AND USED TO BELONG TO CAESAR "BIG C" CICERO.

HEAD OF THE MAGGIA.

BUSTER, I *WAS* THE MAGGIA.

I *REMEMBER* YOU BACK IN THE DAY, HAMMERHEAD.

YOU WERE GLORIFIED MUSCLE. A BAGMAN WITH A GIMMICK.

SAME AS YA ARE NOW.

EXCEPT *NOW* YOU'RE STUCK IN THIS WEIRD PSYCHOSEXUAL THING WITH *THE BLACK CAT.*

NO ONE KNOWS *WHAT'S* GOING ON WITH YOU TWO.

YOU PUTTING "THE HAMMERHEAD" TO HER?

BUSTER, I KNOW YOU THINK YOU'RE THE HOTNESS, BUT *I'VE* SURVIVED EVERYTHING.

THE WILSON FISK ROLLER-COASTER, THE OWL, NEFARIA, SILVERMANE...

...I *SURVIVED* IT BECAUSE PUNKS LIKE YOU CAN'T SEE FIVE FEET PAST THEIR--

HE WAS ACTUALLY BRAGGING THAT ALL HE DID *ALL THESE YEARS* IS *SURVIVE.*

A GUY LIKE THAT WITH A HEAD LIKE *THAT* AND HE AIN'T *THE KINGPIN OF THE ENTIRE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES?*

KEEP IT.

OH, THANKS.

SO NOW WHAT?

WELL, FIRST OF ALL, NICE JOB.

GARY, RIGHT?

YEAH.

NICE JOB. NICE DRAMATIC TIMING.

LISTEN, GARY HERE WILL TELL YOU, I PAY BETTER, THE BENEFITS ARE *CRAZY*--

CRAZY!

--AND, BRAG I *WILL*, I THINK YOU'D *ALL* LIKE THE FEELING OF WORKING FOR A WINNER FOR A CHANGE.

I WILL LEARN ALL YOUR NAMES IN GOOD TIME BUT, MEANWHILE, LET'S TRY TO GET THIS PLACE UP AND--

OH, HEY! WHERE'D THE LADY GO? THE ONE I CAME IN WITH?

OH, SHE RAN AWAY.

I HIRED HER TO SHOW ME--(OH, THAT'S ANNOYING.)

HEY, ANYONE HERE LOYAL TO BLACK CAT WHOM MONEY *CAN'T* BUY...

...*NOW'S* THE TIME TO SPEAK UP.

ACTUALLY, I HAVE TO TELL YOU--FELICIA, SHE SAVED MY BROTHER'S LIFE.

SHE *REALLY* DID.

I'D BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T MENTION IT.

HOW MUCH IS SHE PAYING YOU NOW?

10 PLUS TIPS.

IT'S DOUBLED.

WELL, I GUESS @$@# HER, THEN.

GOD BLESS AMERICA.

$@#$ THAT, TOO!

RRGGH...

YOU LOOK WELL.

I WORK OUT.

WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT *DIAMONDBACK?*

THE HELL?
I AM.
(IT'S TURNING ME ON.)
LET IT HAPPEN.
OKAY...
STAY SAFE, ELEKTRA.
CARRIE-- OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
I BUMPED INTO HER.
HOW IS SHE?
DEAD.
DO YOU REMEMBER CARRIE ANN WILCOX?
SHE WAS IN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW WITH YOU IN SECOND YEAR.
SEX TRAFFICKING.
OH.
YOU NEVER KNOW ABOUT SOME PEOPLE.
WHAT THE ACTUAL @#$@?
YOU DIDN'T EVEN ASK HER ABOUT BREAKING INTO *HEROES FOR HIRE!*
WHY DID YOU ASK *HER* ABOUT *DIAMONDBACK?*
AND WHAT THE ACTUAL @#$@?

NOT ALL COMMUNICATION IS VERBAL.

WE'RE NINJA-TRAINED. DANNY UNDERSTANDS.

SHE WAS HIRED TO LOOK INTO WHO *ATTACKED* YOU.

SHE DIDN'T TAKE ANYTHING FROM YOUR OFFICE. *THAT'S* WHY NOTHING SEEMED TO BE MISSING.

SHE'S WORKING THE SAME BEAT AS US BUT FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE. FOR WHOM, I DO NOT KNOW, WHICH MEANS SHE CAN'T SAY.

IT COULD BE ANYONE.

SO, I ASKED ABOUT DIAMONDBACK BECAUSE--*SHE'S* AFTER HIM TOO.

OKAY, *LUKE*...

YEAH, DUDE, WHO *ARE* YOU?

WHO *AM* I?

DUDE, WE'RE OUT HERE ON THE STREETS *FIGHTING* FOR OUR LIVES, WE GOT *DIAMONDBACK* KNOCKING ON OUR FRONT DOOR, AND NOW WE GOT *ASSASSINS* BREAKING INTO OUR OFFICE...

AND YOU'RE GIVING THEM A WINK AND *LETTING THEM GO!*

YOU *CAN* SEE THEIR POINT.

WE'RE TAKING *A LOT* OF THINGS YOU SAY AT FACE VALUE WHEN--

WE HAVE A KID.

AND YOU *WON'T* EVEN SHOW US YOUR FACE.

I MEAN, I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT YA--

--YA EITHER *TELL US* WHO YOU ARE OR YOU'RE OUT OF THE DEFENDERS...

IS MINE NICER THAN SPIDER-MAN'S?

YOU CAN BE HONEST WITH ME.

BAM BAM BAM

OOF!

THAT BAD, HUH?

COME ON, FRANKIE, RELAX.

DON'T DO IT.

WHEN YOU WANT TO GO TO IT!

I HATE YOU.

MWAH!

YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE!

COME HERE, BIG BOY!

TOLDJA!

SPOK

IDIOT!

NOW THEY'RE HERE!

OOOOOH...

I GET THE ONE DRESSED AS THE DEVIL.

"COME ON, ADMIT IT..."

THE DEFENDERS

...FOR A SECOND THERE, YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T EVEN GOING TO BE IN THE ISSUE.

YOU THOUGHT IT WAS, LIKE, ONE OF THOSE BAIT-AND-SWITCH THINGS.

OR, ***SURPRISE!*** IT WAS ONLY THE RECAP.

BUT SEE? EVERYTHING IS FINE.

ALL THAT MILLENNIAL AGITATION ISN'T GOOD FOR YOU. YOU HAVE TO LET THINGS HAPPEN.

WHAT?

NEXT ISSUE TEASER?

OH, UH, I'M PRETTY SURE SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS TO ME.

HMM? WHAT DOES THE PUNISHER TASTE LIKE?

CATALINA.

I WAS SURPRISED, TOO.

BUT HEY, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT ISSUE WILL DECIDE THE FATE OF THE GRITTY STREETS OF MARVEL.

I READ AHEAD.

BLACK CAT RISES!

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THE DEFENDERS

SPECTACULAR SPECIAL ISSUE!
THE START OF A DEADLY NEW YORK GANG WAR!

SWEET CHRISTMAS!

SZYMON KUDRANSKI INVS AFTER KIRBY

NO. 6 HOMAGE VARIANT BY SZYMON KUDRANSKI & FRANK D'ARMATA

8

THE DEFENDERS

6'0"
5'6"
5'0"
4'6"

FRANK CASTLE, TURN TO THE RIGHT!

YOU KNOW THE DRILL, "PUNISHER."

HEY, ONE MORE HOLE-PUNCH IN YOUR ARREST RECORD AND YOU GET A FREE SANDWICH.

LET'S SEE, WHO BUSTED YOU THIS TIME?

OU812ZECK

CASTLE, FRANK

OH, IT SAYS *THE DEFENDERS* AND *DEADPOOL* STOPPED YOU FROM ASSASSINATING ONE OF THEIR OWN.

OH, AND THIS IS *AFTER* YOU VIOLENTLY ESCAPED FROM PRISON.

TURN TO THE *LEFT.*

THE STREETS OF NEW YORK HAVE GONE TO HELL EVER SINCE THE KINGPIN GAVE UP BEING KINGPIN AND GUYS LIKE DIAMONDBACK HAVE TRIED TO GRAB EVERYTHING THEY CAN...

...BUT YOU PEOPLE--YOU KEEP FIGHTING WITH EACH OTHER AND THEN WONDER HOW THESE CRIMINALS KEEP GETTING THE UPPER HAND...

TURN TO THE RIGHT.

THINK ABOUT IT, FRANKIE--WHILE YOU GET PROCESSED, THE BAD GUYS ARE OUT THERE...

PLOTTING, PLANNING...

"...READY FOR THEIR MOMENT."

QUIET! NO TALKING.

NO *TALKING?*

I WANT TO PLAY A SERIOUS GAME OF SKILL.

DUDE, YOU HAVE *GOT* TO BE KIDDING.

TITANIA, I WANT YOUR BEST GAME.

FIXER, THIS IS THE *ONE NIGHT* I GET OFF FROM DEALING WITH THE MESS MY DEAD HUSBAND LEFT ME.

THE ONE NIGHT.

I SHOWED UP TO THIS "MEETING" ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR INDUSTRY, EVEN THOUGH I *KNEW* OUR HOST, HAMMERHEAD, IS NO LONGER WITH US...

THAT IS HOW MUCH I *NEED* THIS.

TITANIA, I WANT YOUR BEST GAME.

DUDE, IT'S *MONOPOLY.*

SSHH!

OKAY.

YOU-- YOU'RE *LOSING* IT.

REALLY.

THIS GUY DIAMONDBACK GOT HAMMERHEAD, THE BLACK CAT GETS POPPED...

IT'S DUCK-HUNTING SEASON AND NOT *ONE* OF YOU HAS PUT TOGETHER YOUR OWN CREW TO GO GET WHAT'S YOURS?

I'M NOT LOOKING TO BE KINGPIN.

AT THIS POINT, I JUST WANT WHAT'S MINE SO I CAN--

HOLD ON...

WHAT?

I SWEAR TO GOD, RUMOR IS, EVERY TIME SOMEONE STARTS TALKING ABOUT DIAMONDBACK...

...HE--HE SUDDENLY *SHOWS UP...*

LIKE--LIKE BEETLEJUICE.

WHAT ARE YOU *BABBLING* ABOUT?

TRUST ME ON THIS, MOONSTONE, I KNOW WHAT--

OH, *THIS* PLACE...

I *REMEMBER* THIS PLACE...

THIS IS WHERE THE KINGPIN BECAME THE KINGPIN.

I WAS HERE.

WELL, I WAS OVER THERE.

I SAW IT.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING.

BUT IT WAS *HERE* THAT THE KINGPIN MADE HIS BONES.

SEE, A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THIS...

CAN WE HELP YOU?

WILSON FISK WAS AN ENFORCER FOR THE RIGOLETTO FAMILY.

BUT BETWEEN WILSON'S BLIND AMBITION AND DON RIGOLETTO SQUEEZING EVERYBODY HE EVER MET FOR EVERY DIME HE COULD SQUEEZE OUT OF THEM...

...IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME...

THEN THE DAY CAME.

WILSON FISK LOOKED GOD HIMSELF IN THE EYE AND SAID-- MY TURN.

THERE'S CLEARLY BEEN SOME SORT OF MISUNDERSTANDING.

DON RIGOLETTO.

DON @#$@#$ RIGOLETTO.

HE SAT RIGHT THERE.

COOL A.F.

DON RIGOLETTO SAID, "FISK, THIS IS NOT HOW THIS IS GOING TO GO DOWN..."

IT'S A SIMPLE DIFFERENCE IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, DON RIGOLETTO.

I THINK YOU ***HAVE*** TO PAY YOUR BILLS TO RUN AN EFFECTIVE OPERATION AND YOU ***CLEARLY*** HAVE DECIDED OTHERWISE.

I'M *THE DON* OF THIS FAMILY, FISK.

NOT YOU.

THERE ARE WAYS THINGS GET DONE.

AND RULE NUMBER ONE, IF YOU EVER TOOK YOUR FACE OUT OF THE CANDY JAR LONG ENOUGH TO CARE, IS...

...*MY* BUSINESS IS *NONE* OF YOUR FAT #$@#$ BUSINESS.

YOU'RE NOT HEARING ME, DON...

I'M *TELLING* YOU...

...YOU DIDN'T PAY YOUR BILLS, SO I PAID THEM FOR YOU.

THE MOMENT IT ALL CHANGED.

I DIDN'T KNOW IT AT THE TIME, OF COURSE.

NO ONE DID.

FISK HOPED, SURE.

MY FEELING IS ONCE THE GUNS OR POWERS COME OUT, I DON'T CARE HOW FORWARD-THINKING OR BADASS YOU ARE, NO ONE KNOWS WHAT'S *REALLY* GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT...

"I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT MOMENT A LOT.

"MAN, IF YOU LOOK UP AND EVERYBODY YOU KNOW IS POINTING A GUN AT YOU...

"...THAT'S PROBABLY ON *YOU.*

"*YOU* PUT YOURSELF THERE.

"AND IF YOU'RE A BAG MAN FOR THE MOB AND YOU DECIDE YOU'D RATHER GO OUT IN A HAIL OF @#$@#$ GLORY THAN SPEND ONE MORE SECOND BEING LESS THAN ALL YOU CAN BE WORKING FOR AN OILY ROLY-POLY LIKE RIGOLETTO...

SO IS THIS A "RING KISS" OR A "GOODBYE"?

RING KISS.

OKAY, THEN...

AND I HAVE TO SAY, EVEN IN THE MOMENT, I THOUGHT, HEY...

OKAY, YEAH, I'M LOW MAN ON THE TOTEM POLE FOR SURE...

...BUT I *AM* PART OF THIS CREW.

"WHY DIDN'T ANYONE CLUE ME IN ON THE BIG MUTINY?

"WAS IT BECAUSE I WAS BLACK?

"THESE 'OLD-SCHOOL' GUYS..."

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE TAUGHT ME.

GOODBYE.

STRYKER.
THE DON CALLED YOU DIAMONDBACK.
WHY DID HE CALL YOU THAT?
'CUZ HE WAS AN *IDIOT.*
YOU AND MR. LUCAS...GET RID OF THE BODY, WILL YOU?
THEN REPORT TO CAESAR CICERO FOR SOME REAL WORK.
I HAVE MY EYE ON YOU.
THIS $@#$ GUY COMES UP TO ME, A STRANGER, AND SAYS, "WILL YOU GET RID OF THAT DEAD BODY I JUST KILLED?"
ONLY A MILLION YEARS LATER WOULD I FIND OUT HE KNEW *EXACTLY* WHO I WAS AND HE KNEW *EXACTLY* WHO EVERYONE IN THAT ROOM WAS.
HE LEFT NOTHING TO CHANCE.
I'D NEVER TOUCHED A DEAD BODY BEFORE.
HE HAD THE GAME PLAYED AND WON BEFORE RIGOLETTO EVEN PUT ON HIS TIGHTY-WHITIES THAT MORNING.
IT WAS-- MAN, IT WAS INSPIRING.
GREAT STORY.
#$@#$ OFF.
YOU GUYS LIKE MAKING *ACTUAL* MONEY?
OH PLEASE, WE ARE *NOT* COMING TO WORK FOR YOU, CRAZY-PANTS McGILLICUTTY.
HOW MUCH?

FIXER!
SERIOUSLY, HOW MUCH?
DUDE.
I WANT TO KNOW.
HE *WHACKED* HAMMERHEAD.
SOMEONE WAS GOING TO EVENTUALLY.
THERE WAS NO OTHER END TO *THAT* STORY.
TRUE WORDS.
HEY, I'M NOT HERE RECRUITING A GANG. I COULD GO TO LILLY FOR THAT.
I'M LOOKING FOR SOME *REAL* TALENT.
I'M HERE WITH A BOUNTY WORTH YOUR TIME.
I FIGURE YOU GODS AND MONSTERS MIGHT BE PERFECT FOR IT.
WHO?
YOU *KNOW* WHO.
NO, I DON'T.
YOU HEARD OF THE DEFENDERS?
(NOT THE ONES WITH GARGOYLE...)
THESE GUYS-- THEY'RE...

"...DIFFERENT."

SMACK

HEY!

SMACK

OW!

MY GOITER!

PACK

SERIOUSLY, WEDNESDAYS...

AM I RIGHT?

USUALLY I'M NOT A FAN OF PANEL BORDER BREAKS, BUT THIS...

ANYONE GOT ANY, AH, BACTINE?

THAT IS *NOT* WHAT I TOLD YOU TO DO!

TO BE FAIR, I COULD BARELY HEAR YOU OVER THE SOUND OF THE VOICE ALREADY IN MY HEAD.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, JESSICA...YOU *INVITED* DEADPOOL INTO THIS?

WHY?

I ASKED HIM TO HUNT DOWN SOME LEADS ON DIAMONDBACK.

(DAREDEVIL.)

BECAUSE WE'RE TEN STEPS BEHIND, DEVILBOY!

AND *HE* RUNS IN CIRCLES WE *DON'T.*

YOU CAN SAY THAT @#$# AGAIN.

THEN WHY DID YOU TURN ON US?!

NO! WHAT? NOOOO!

THE PUNISHER WAS *JUST* ABOUT TO ASSASSINATE "HOT STUFF" HERE, AND I *STOPPED* HIM.

THAT IS *FACT!*

AND THEN WHEN WE CAUGHT WIND AND CAME AFTER HIM, *YOU OPENED FIRE ON US!*

WELL!

I MEAN, IT'S COMPLICATED--

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

OH MY GOD!

IT'S EVERYTHING MOMMY SAID IT WOULD BE!

YOU *KNOW* I'M BULLETPROOF.

THAT'S WHAT MADE IT SOOOO***OOOHHAAAHH*** FOR ME.

IT'S ALL I THINK ABOUT WHEN I ***LOOK*** AT YOU!

THE FACT THAT I'M NOT SHOOTING AT YOU RIGHT NOW SHOWS THE MOST SELF-CONTROL ***I'VE EVER SHOWN!***

(IT'S A COMPLICATED FEELING.)

TELL ME THAT'S NOT REALLY IT.

GUYS! GUYS GUYS GUYS!

I CAUGHT HIM ABOUT TO SNIPE YOU, I DOVE IN TO STOP IT AND THEN I ***TRIED*** TO ESTABLISH A CIRCLE OF TRUST WITH FRANK CASTLE SO THAT HE WOULD CONFIDE ***IN ME*** WHAT HE KNOWS ABOUT DIAMONDBACK SO THEN I COULD TELL YOU.

(BUT MOSTLY THE FIRST THING...)

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT ***SHE*** BLACKMAILED ME INTO DOING!

HELPING YOU FIND DIAMONDBACK! AH-DOY!

BLACKMAILED?

YOU OWE ME AND ***AGREED*** TO HELP WHEN I ASKED.

YOU CALLING IN THE MARKER IS, IN ITSELF, A FORM OF BLACKMAIL.

BABE...

...HIT HIM AGAIN.

WITH YOUR ENTIRE FIST.

HOW WOULD FRANK CASTLE TRUST ***YOU*** IF ***YOU'RE*** THE ONE THAT STOPPED HIM FROM ASSASSINATING ***ME?***

BECAUSE, HELLO--UH, DUH!

UM...

HMM.

IT MADE SENSE IN MY HEAD.

I CAN TAKE IT BACK TO MY DESK AND WORKSHOP IT.

OKAY, SURE, I SEE IT NOW.

BUT, HEY, ***THE PUNISHER IS IN JAIL*** FOR THE NEXT SEVEN MINUTES.

WE DID THAT. *US.*

HIGH FIVES ALL AROUND.

LET'S GO BACK TO TITANS TOWER AND TAKE A SHOWER TOGETHER.

OH, OKAY, I GET IT...

THE TEAM-UP IS OVER.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIT ***ME*** FOR TWO MORE PAGES...

I WILL DO MY DUTY AND KEEP AN EAR OUT ON THIS WHOLE "NEW KINGPIN OF NEW YORK CITY" THING.

(UNLESS IT'S ME.)

TWIST!

SLAAMMM VRROOM

IS HE *GONE* GONE?

HOLD ON...

YES.

'KAY, WELL...

I DON'T WANT TO POINT FINGERS, BUT...

WHAT THE ACTUAL @%!#@$?

YOU *UNDERSTAND* HE IS CERTIFIABLY INSANE!

OH?

REALLY?

I ONCE SAW HIM, IN FRONT OF CHILDREN, TAKE A MEXICAN DINNER ENTREE AND--

OH, WE'RE *TOSSING LABELS AROUND?*

YES, I TRIED TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX TO GET AN EDGE ON THIS, BUT BUDDY, I'M NOT TAKING AN OUNCE OF @#$@ FROM YOU BECAUSE I HAVE NO IDEA *WHO THE HELL YOU ARE!*

YOU DRESS LIKE THE DEVIL AND, YES, YOU SEEM SO @#$@ FAMILIAR, BUT YOU ARE *NOT* TELLING *ME* WHAT'S *NUTS!*

WE WERE *JUST* TALKING ABOUT THIS BEFORE THE PUNISHER TRIED TO WHACK YOU...

I... KNOW.

AND IF PUNISHER WERE SPECIFICALLY TARGETING *YOU* NOW...

ACCORDING TO DEADPOOL, BUT SURE...

HEY...

YOU GET IT, RIGHT?

I'M YOUR LAWYER.

IT'S ME...MATTHEW MURDOCK.

I KNEW IT.

WHAT ABOUT GARY THE PRIZEFIGHTER?

SO YOU *PRETEND* TO BE BLIND SO PEOPLE WON'T KNOW YOU'RE REALLY--?

DUDE, THAT IS *HIGHLY* PROBLEMATIC FOR ME.

I *AM* BLIND.

OH! DUDE, THAT IS AWESOME.

THERE WAS THIS STREET-FIGHTER NAMED STICK WHO WAS BLIND.

HE WAS MY SENSEI.

HEY! NO WAY.

HE USED TO BEAT ME.

OH...

NO WAY.

HOW'D YOU GET YOUR RADAR AND STUFF?

LIGHTNING BOLT?

RADIOACTIVE SPIDER?

HOWARD THE DUCK STD?

RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPE.

WHERE ARE WE?
WHICH ROOM?
739.
Mount Sinai
Intensive Care
Unit
THERE YOU ARE!
NYPD. FRANK QUAID. SHE JUST UP AND LEFT?
SHE JUST UP AND *DISAPPEARED.*
HEY, THIS IS PALMER DOWN AT MT. SINAI WITH CAPTAIN QUAID.
WE HAVE A 10-80.
FELICIA HARDY IS MISSING.
YEAH.
THE *BLACK CAT* IS ON THE LOOSE.
WE'LL GO THROUGH THE BUILDING SECURITY--
YES, I KNOW HOW TO QUESTION THE--

SO, *DIAMONDBACK HAD YOU* FROM DAY ONE, TOO.

MAYBE.

HE KNOWS YOUR TRUE IDENTITY.

I DON'T *THINK* HE DOES.

THE WAY HE REACTS TO ME IN UNIFORM--HIS HEARTBEAT--

--I THINK SOMEONE TOLD HIM IT WOULD GET *MY* ATTENTION.

I DON'T LIKE *ANY* OF THIS.

AND I *STILL* DON'T GET WHY *PUNISHER* WAS TRYING TO RUB *YOU* OUT RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.

YOU KNOW, THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, I THINK HE WAS JUST SPYING ON US WITH HIS SNIPER SCOPE.

YOU THINK DEADPOOL DEADPOOLED IT.

I THINK, JUST BASED ON EVERY DAY OF MY LIFE EXPERIENCE, PUNISHER WAS TRACKING US.

HE WAS RIGHT OUTSIDE OF MY RADAR RANGE.

RIGHT OUTSIDE.

GUYS, I KNOW WE HAVE TO EAT TO FUNCTION AS HUMAN PEOPLE, BUT--

WE'RE NOT HERE TO EAT.

WE'RE NOT?

WHAT?

WHAT?

YOU WERE RIGHT, JESS...

CHAOS BRINGS NOTHING BUT MORE CHAOS...

PARKER ROBBINS IS HERE.

OH, I *HATE* THAT GUY!

WHO'S PARKER ROBBINS?

WHERE DO I KNOW THAT NAME?

YOU ONLY KNOW HIM AS...

THE HOOD

EVENING.

BAM

BAM

BAM

BAM

HEY, HAMMERHEAD, 'MEMBER ME? DON'T TRY TO TALK.

YOU'VE JUST EXPERIENCED SOMETHING.

JJDOTOME?

A NORN STONE RESURRECTION. YOU'RE WELCOME.

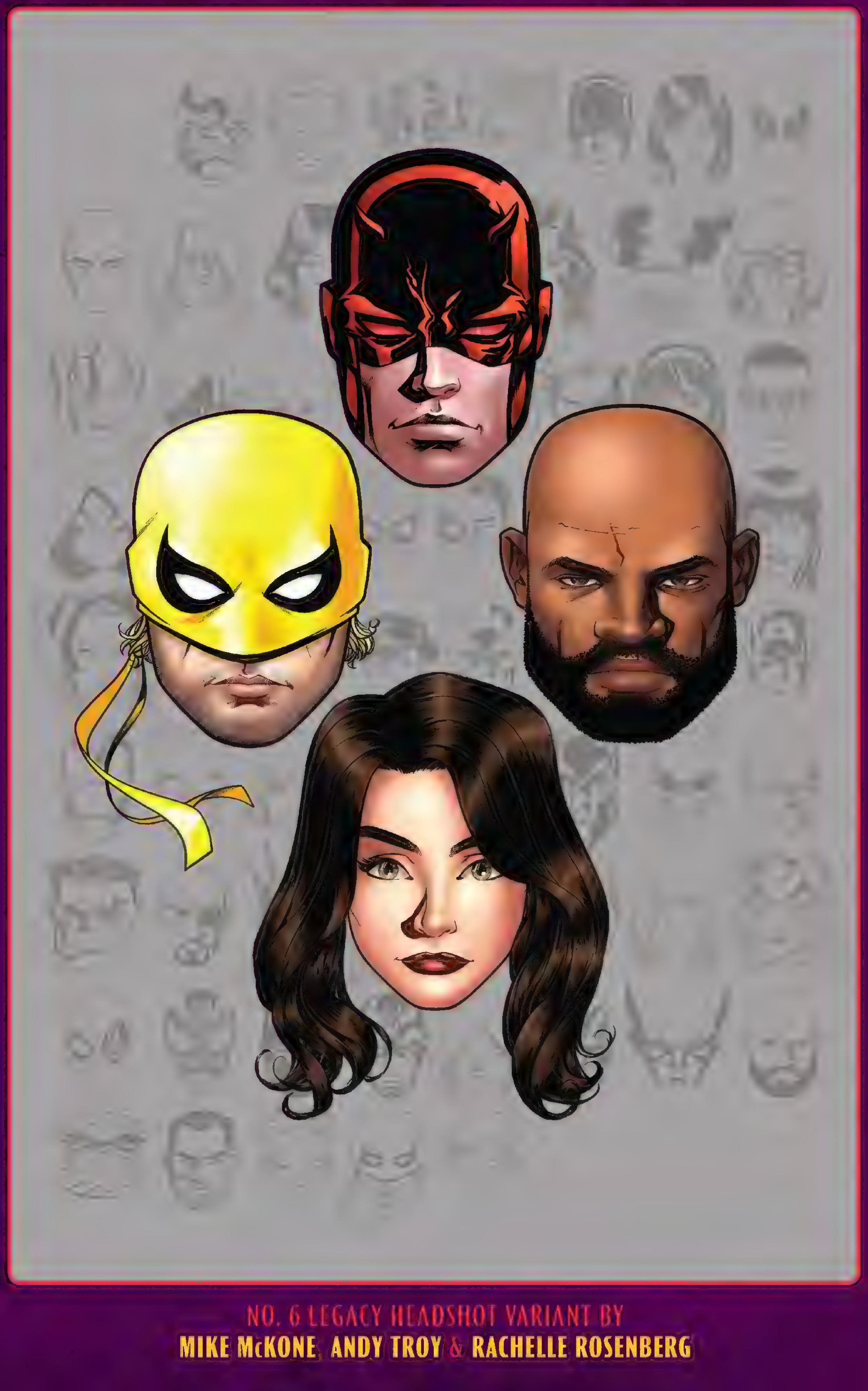
GAVE YOU A BIG, BIG SECOND CHANCE.

I'M ALL ABOUT SECOND CHANCES.

ESPECIALLY WHEN THAT SECOND CHANCE INVOLVES YOU BEING MORTALLY INDEBTED TO ME AS I MAKE MY PLAY.

I'M THE NEW KINGPIN OF NEW YORK.

LET EVERYONE KNOW, WILL YOU?



NO. 6 LEGACY HEADSHOT VARIANT BY

MIKE McKONE, ANDY TROY & RACHELLE ROSENBERG

9

THE DEFENDERS

I'M WITH--WE'RE CALLING OURSELVES THE *DEFENDERS.*

HAVE YOU HEARD OF US?

IT'S ME, LUKE CAGE, IRON FIST AND DAREDEVIL, AND WE ARE *DESPERATELY* TRYING TO SHUT DOWN THIS--THIS GANG WAR BUILDING UP BETWEEN POTENTIAL KINGPINS IN THE NEW YORK CITY AREA.

HAVE YOU BOTHERED TO LOOK OUTSIDE? WILSON FISK IS NO LONGER THE KINGPIN AND EVERYONE FROM THE BLACK CAT TO DIAMONDBACK IS LOOKING TO GRAB EVERYTHING THEY CAN GET THEIR HANDS ON.

NOW, I KNOW THE POLICE IN THIS CITY HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL, AND GOD KNOWS I KNOW THERE'S AN ALIEN INVASION AROUND EVERY CORNER, BUT IF WE DON'T SHUT DOWN WHAT'S HAPPENING--AND I MEAN TOMORROW--PEOPLE ARE GOING *TO DIE.*

DIAMONDBACK HAS A NEW COSMETIC DRUG ON THE STREET THAT IS *KILLING PEOPLE.*

IT GIVES THEM POWERS FOR A *SECOND* AND THEN IT *KILLS* THEM.

KILLS.

SO I'M ASKING YOU FOR A HUGE FAVOR, AND I KNOW I DON'T DESERVE IT...

...BUT MISTY, I NEED TO TALK TO *THE PUNISHER.*

JESSICA JONES, THIS IS A POLICE DEPARTMENT, NOT A--

MISTY.

I KNOW YOU HATE ME.

AND, HEY, NO SECRET, I DON'T CARE FOR YOU.

A 17-YEAR RUNNING GAG IS NOT EASY TO PULL OFF!

I DON'T WANT TO BE ANYWHERE NEAR YOU BECAUSE, WELL, YOU ONCE TOLD MY HUSBAND I'M A "HOT GARBAGE FIRE" AND THAT HE SHOULD STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM ME BEFORE I GOT HIM KILLED WITH MY LOSERNESS.

AND YOUR METAL ARM SMELLS WEIRD TO ME.

KNOWING *ALL* THAT, I'M *STILL* HERE ASKING *YOU* FOR A FAVOR BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO *DIE.*

GET ME IN A ROOM WITH THE PUNISHER.

I WAS WRONG.

YOU AND LUKE ARE *PERFECT* FOR EACH OTHER.

GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE, JONES, AND LET THE PROFESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT...DO SOME PROFESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.

GO FIND SOME ALIEN NINJAS TO PUNCH.

I'M VERY TIRED AND I'M--

DID YOU NOT *HEAR--?*

MY BRAIN IS THE MULTIVERSE, YO!

YOU DIDN'T EXIST UNTIL I THOUGHT OF YOU!!!

DAMN IT, GARY!

THE ELDERS OF THE COSMOS DIED FOR OUR SINS!

SETTLE DOWN, KID!

WHOA!

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A DEAD UNIVERSE!

A DEAD UNIVERSE! A DEAD UNIVERSE! *A DEAD UNIVERSE!*

WHOA!

SWEET CHRISTMAS...

PLEASE.

IT'S GOTTA BE HER?

HE AIN'T GONNA TALK TO *ME*.

YOU HAVE A VISITOR, FRANK...

HEY...

...WHO'S BACKING DIAMONDBACK?

HEY!

I JUST, THIS SECOND, SAW SOMEONE *DIE* IN THE OTHER ROOM.

ON THAT DIAMOND DRUG #$@#.

SO LET'S JUST ASSUME MORE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO DIE WHILE YOU SIT THERE STEVE MCQUEENING ME.

WHY ARE YOU DOING ANY OF THIS PUNISHER THING IF NOT TO DO *EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER* TO STOP THIS *EXACT* NONSENSE?

NO, I TOLD YOU, I SAW HIM ONCE.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

WITHOUT HIS MASK ON?

YOU WOULD NOT FIND HIM HOT.

C'MON, DIAMONDBACK, WE GETTIN' OUT OF THE CITY TONIGHT OR NOT?

INTRODUCE ME TO HIM AND I'LL TELL YOU.

DRIVE THE CAR.

I GET IT. YOU SEE THE MASK AND YOU THINK--

'KAY, IT'S TIME TO GET OUT OF THE CITY BECAUSE I AM DEFINITELY SEEING...

...THINGS.

THIS IS IT, DIAMONDBACK.

YOU'RE DONE.

YOU A COP NOW, CAGE?

YOU'RE COMING WITH US.

OR?

OR I TAKE YOUR CAR AND I ROLL IT UP INTO A BALL AND I THROW IT INTO THE EAST RIVER.

WITH YOU IN IT.

DESE DEM?

UGH!

(IF THAT LAST PART WASN'T ENTIRELY CLEAR.)

BOY! YOU THINK I WASN'T READY FOR YOU?

THESE ARE THE DEFENDERS, TITANIA?

GUESS SO, FIXER.

OH, HEY, CAGE, STILL MARRIED, I SEE?

(STUPID.)

GREAT.

GREAT.

CAGE, I DONE TOLD YOU THE DAY I GOT BACK.

RULES ARE DIFFERENT NOW.

THIS ISN'T THE SAME GAME KINGPIN PLAYED.

WHAT MR. DIAMONDBACK IS SAYIN' IS, GO HOME.

GAME'S CHANGED.

HEY! I TRASHED YOUR WORLDS AND *I'M* GONNA *TRASH YOUR SOUL* IF YOU DON'T FIND ANOTHER DAMN HOBBY.

BUT I LIKE *THIS* HOBBY.

HE *REALLY* DOES.

OKAY.

I DID NOT AGREE TO THIS!

SORRY.

SORRY.

MY BAD.

SMASH

IT'S CAGE.

CLUB ULTIMATE.

BRING EVERYONE.

YEAH, RIGHT NOW.

DOES ANYONE ELSE JUST MARVEL AT WHAT CAGE SEES IN THIS &%$#@?

NO.

LOVE IS LOVE.

EXACTLY.

SPACK

YOU HEALED UP NICE FROM ME BREAKING YOUR BACK, FIST.

GUESS I'LL HAVE--

SPOK

FUMMPP

AGH! SON OF A--

$@#$!

YOU'RE IN OVER YOUR HEAD, TRAILER PARK.

MOONSTONE, I'LL PAY YOU MONEY TO STOP *TALKING.*

WE GOT 'EM ON THE ROPES, GUYS.

THIS IS GOING TO MAKE OUR REPS LIKE YOU WOULDN'T--

SPHSSSH

AAGGH!

SMACK

SMART-ASS!

DAMN.

DAMN.

DAMN.

SMACK

HATE %@#!$ FIGHTING!

I GET THAT.

SMACK

I DON'T.

GORRK!

HEY, WHATS THE *DAILY BUGLE* TIP LINE?

SCREW *THEM!* I'M 'GRAMMING THIS MY OWN SELF.

THIS IS NUTS.

YO!

LOOK AT WHAT CAGE IS DOING!

YA COME BACK TO LIFE!

SMASH!!!

YA THINK YOU'RE THE HOT $@#%!

SMASHH

YA DONE!!!

SMASHH

YOU HEAR ME?!

SMASHH

PUNK ASS.

KNEW YOU WAS HYPE.

BUDDABUDDAABUDDA

BUDDABUDDAA

YOU-- YOU *SHOT* ME!

YOU SHOT ME WITH *A GUN?*

YOU KIDDING ME?

YEAH, NORMALLY I *HATE* GUNS...

I HATE THEM SOMETHING TERRIBLE.

BUT I HATE YOU MORE.

BLACK CAT...

MMFFRR...

STILL ALIVE.

THAT IS DISAPPOINTING.

WELL, IF WE AIN'T GETTING PAID...

I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN, FIXER.

SORRY.

YEAH.

UH, TRUCE.

YEAH.

THAT'S NOT HOW THIS WORKS.

THAT'S NOT FAIR!

WE'RE ONLY HERE FOR THE GIG, MAN!

UH-HUH.

SPK

STAPP

GUYAAG!

I *KNEW* YOU WERE WATCHING...

...ELEKTRA.

SURE YOU DID.

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS NOW?

FELICIA HARDY.

HEY, CAGE.

HERE.

ON THE HOUSE.

DON'T NEED IT.

NO.

I DON'T NEED IT.

IF ALL *THIS* WEREN'T ENOUGH OF A BIG WAKE-UP CALL...

...MY CRIMINAL DAYS ARE OVER.

WHATEVER YOU GUYS ARE CALLING YOURSELVES, WHATEVER THE GAME PLAN IS, I AM ALL IN.

LADY, YOU CAN'T JUST GET UP OUT OF YOUR HOSPITAL BED AND JUST ALL OF A SUDDEN DECIDE YOU'RE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS NOW.

WHY NOT, CAGE?

YOU DID!

THAT IS ALMOST A GOOD POINT, COLLEEN.

DAUGHTERS OF THE DRAGON, WHITE TIGER, ECHO...

DANIEL...

THANKS FOR COMING OUT ON SUCH A LOVELY EVENING.

I WAS *JUST* GLIDING BY.

WELL, DEFENDERS, DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT I THINK WE CAUGHT OURSELVES THE KINGPIN.

NO.

NO, YOU HAVEN'T...

HAMMERHEAD!

THE HOOD.

HE HAS THE--

--THE POWER...

...HE HAS THE POWER OVER LIFE AND DEATH ITSELF.

THE--*THE HOOD* IS THE NEW KINGPIN.

10

THE DEFENDERS

WE'RE *THE DEFENDERS.*
AS LONG AS THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU...WE WILL BE THERE TO DEFEND YOU.
WE JUST TOOK DOWN ONE KINGPIN AND WE'RE GETTING READY TO TAKE OUT THE NEXT.
HE CALLS HIMSELF *THE HOOD.*
REAL NAME--PARKER ROBBINS.
KIND OF A DEMONICALLY POSSESSED GANGSTER.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

OH, *HELLO.*

AREN'T YOU WILSON FISK, *THE MAYOR* OF NEW YORK CITY?

I KNOW YOU'RE A *VERY* IMPORTANT PERSON AND YOU MEET A LOT OF PEOPLE, SO I WON'T HOLD YOUR FAT TO THE FIRE AND HAVE YOU TRY TO REMEMBER *MY* NAME...

PARKER ROBBINS.

WE'VE MET.

THEY CALL ME *THE HOOD.*

BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, OF THE HOOD.

SO HERE'S WHAT'S WHAT--IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ALREADY...

...DIAMONDBACK IS DONE.

THE DEFENDERS DEFENDED HIS FACE FROM HIS NOSE.

AND IN HIS ABSENCE, I TOOK HIS TERRITORY.

ALL OF IT.

THE *BOROUGHS*, THE CLUBS, THE TRADE ROUTES, THE BOOK-MAKERS...

THAT DRUG HE WAS PUSHING WAS CRAP. THAT IS DONE.

I HAVE SOME INTERESTING PEOPLE WORKING ON SOME INTERESTING NEW HIGHS.

I KNOW IT USED TO ALL BE YOURS. YOU BUILT IT.

SO I'M HERE OUT OF RESPECT.

TOTAL RESPECT.

I AM IN *NO WAY INSINUATING* THAT YOU, YOURSELF, PERSONALLY MIGHT HAVE BEEN IN *CAHOOTS* WITH THAT *DIAMONDBACK MANIAC*, BECAUSE *CLEARLY* THAT IS NOT THE CASE.

NO WAY.

I AM NOT SAYING--AND I WOULD *NEVER EVER* BE *CAUGHT DEAD* SAYING--THAT EVEN THOUGH YOU MIRACULOUSLY GRADUATED TO MAYOR OF THE GREATEST CITY ON *THIS*, THE PLANET EARTH...

(...AND, BY ANY DEFINITION OF THE WORDS, ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL POLITICIANS IN THE UNITED STATES...)

...YOU *STILL* COULDN'T GIVE UP CONTROL OF YOUR BLOOD-COVERED CRIMINAL EMPIRE.

I WOULD *NEVER* EVER SAY THAT, BECAUSE THAT WOULD MEAN YOU ARE EITHER SO INCREDIBLY SELF-DESTRUCTIVE AND GREEDY THAT EVEN *MY* BRAIN COULDN'T PROCESS IT, OR...

OR YOU'RE JUST OUT OF YOUR FAT #$@$# MIND.

NOPE.

THIS IS NOTHING BUT A COURTESY CALL TO TELL YOU THAT I AM THE NEW KINGPIN.

SO! ANY ADVICE FOR ME, KINGPIN TO KINGPIN?

LISTEN, TRUTH TOLD, I WILL BE RUNNING THINGS *DIFFERENTLY* THAN YOU DID.

BUT DO NOT, EVEN FOR ONE SECOND, TAKE THAT AS AN OUNCE OF DISRESPECT COMING FROM MY DIRECTION.

WHAT WORKED FOR YOU, WORKED FOR YOU.

BUT IT'S TIME TO SHAKE THINGS UP, AND I HAVE SOME NEW IDEAS I'M GOING TO TRY OUT.

I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW IT IS NOT OUT OF DISRESPECT.

NEW KINGPIN, NEW MAYOR. NEW RULES.

AND I HOPE WE--YOU AND I--CAN START TO THINK OF WAYS TO ***HELP*** EACH OTHER.

I GET IT--BABY STEPS.

DON'T WORRY, I'LL MAKE SURE ANY EVIDENCE I FIND THAT TIED YOU TO ANY OF THIS IS KEPT JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME.

YOU KNOW, IN FRIENDSHIP.

COOL?

"HERE'S THE THING...

"IT'S NOT THE STORIES WE'RE TOLD...

"...IT'S THE STORIES THAT WE'RE ***NOT***...

THE NEWS YOU READ OR SEE, *SOME*TIMES THAT'S THE STORY YOU GET *JUST* BECAUSE WHOEVER IS IN CHARGE OF MAKING THE NEWS--THEY JUST *HAPPEN* TO HAVE SOME FOOTAGE.

SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU.

SO BASED ON THAT AND *ONLY* THAT...IT BECOMES *NEWS.*

KNIGHT

BUT STUFF HAPPENS EVERY DAY, ALL OVER THE WORLD.

BIG STUFF. IMPORTANT STUFF. STUFF THAT *NEVER* GETS REPORTED.

BUT NO ART, NO STORY.

ALSO, *I'M* TELLING YOU, THERE'S, I THINK, ONLY SO MANY STORIES A PERSON CAN *HEAR* IN A DAY.

THAT IS TRUE.

TECHNOLOGY

I *THINK* IT'S ALL PERSPECTIVE.

I THINK YOU HEAR THE STORIES YOU NEED TO HEAR.

NO. NO, NO.

PEOPLE GO LOOKING FOR THE STORIES THEY *WANT.*

THE STORIES THAT CONFIRM THEIR WORST FEARS.

TRUST ME ON THIS.

I THINK PEOPLE LOOK FOR STORIES THAT GIVE YOU HOPE WHEN YOU CAN'T FIND ANY IN FRONT OF YOU.

AW, THAT'S TRUE.

YOU KNOW, THERE ARE STORIES THAT HAVE ACTUALLY HAPPENED *TO ME* THAT I HAVE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN...

...BUT, FOR SOME REASON, I REMEMBER EVERY DETAIL OF REED RICHARDS AND SUE STORM'S WEDDING.

BUT THAT DOES *NOT* ANSWER THE QUESTION--WHAT HAPPENED TO *THE DEFENDERS?*

DRESSING UP AND GOING OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, SPECIFICALLY LOOKING FOR A FIGHT?

THEY WERE *LOOKING* TO BE FAMOUS.

THAT'S WHAT THEY *WANTED.*

THAT'S WHAT THEY GOT.

LISTEN, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE NOT *WELL-KNOWN.*

WE'RE WELL-KNOWN.

(I WAS AN AVENGER.)

I WAS ONE OF *ROLLING STONE'S HOTTEST AVENGERS.*

(HE WAS #77.)

THING IS, YEAH, WE'RE USED TO STICKING OUT.

I USED TO WEAR A BIG METAL TIARA.

WHY? BECAUSE, LOOK AT ME, I *COULD.*

AND, IF NOT ME, WHO?

WHEN I SAW THE NEWS, I WAS LIKE--I USED TO *DREAM* OF THAT KIND OF PRESS.

BUT IF IT WERE ME THE HEADLINE WOULD HAVE SAID, "*CREEPY SPIDER-BOY RUINS LIMO.*"

BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO US AFTER DIAMONDBACK...

THAT WAS WEIRD.

THAT...WAS *UNEXPECTED.*

NO, IT WASN'T.

PEOPLE ARE *SO SICK* OF BEING PICKED ON AND PREYED ON...

MY HUSBAND WALKED UP TO ONE OF THOSE ASSHATS WHO WAS PICKING AND PREYING ON PEOPLE AND HE PUNCHED HIM RIGHT IN HIS FACE.

AND HE DID IT ON CAMERA.

SO, YEAH, WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

SURE.

OUR DAUGHTER IS FINE, BY THE WAY.

I TOLD YOU THAT NEW SITTER WOULD WORK OUT.

IF YOU GUYS HAVE TO GO...

SHE'S FAST ASLEEP RIGHT NOW.

OKAY, WHAT IS THIS?

AW, DUDE.

I LOVE IT.

PHEW!

YOU PROMISE YOU LIKE IT?

I REALLY DO.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

THE PEOPLE NEED A PLACE THEY KNOW THEY CAN COME TO.

AN ADDRESS.

SOMEONE KNOCKS IT DOWN AGAIN? WE BUILD AGAIN.

COME HERE.

I DON'T WANT YOUR BEAR-HUG KISS.

YES, YOU DO.

SHOULD I LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE?

DON'T BE JELLY.

HEROES FOR HIRE

1·800·HEROES

H

HEROES FOR HIRE.COM

1·800·HEROES

H

HEROES FOR HIRE.COM

HEY!

YO, CAGE! JONES!

YO, MAN, MY BROTHER WAS ON THAT DIAMOND STUFF!

THANK YOU FOR CLEANING HOUSE.

SERIOUSLY!

DOES ANYONE EVER JUST *THANK* YOU GUYS?

NO?

WELL, THANK YOU!

CLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAP

THANK YOU!

IRON FIST!!!

YOU SAVED MY BABY!

CAAAAAAAGGE!

CLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAP

(WHAT THE ACTUAL @#@#?)

"OUR BOYS ARE THE NEW HOTNESS."

CLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAP

DAILY BUGLE
THEY DEFEND!
RIOT WITH JAMES
NICE.
NICE.
THEY HAD IT COMING.
NO MENTION OF YOU THOUGH, BLACK CAT.
I'M OKAY.
DOESN'T BOTHER YOU?
THE FAMOUS *BLACK CAT? QUEENPIN OF HELL'S KITCHEN?*
KNIGHT, I CAN GIVE YOU *THE HOOD.*
WITH A @#$@ BOW.
TONIGHT.
OH, WE'RE CUTTING TO THE CHASE.
FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF HOURS, YOU WERE GOING TO WORK ME OVER PSYCHOLOGICALLY, SPECIFICALLY TO GET ME TO GIVE YOU AS MUCH STUFF AS I CAN BEFORE YOU THROW ME IN THE HOLE.
I HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN ATTORNEY AND I HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT.
AND I'M TELLING YOU I RESERVE THOSE RIGHTS AND I WILL GIVE YOU PARKER ROBBINS.
TONIGHT.
IN EXCHANGE FOR...?
I WALK.
I CAN'T DO THAT.
SURE YOU CAN.
HA.
TOLDJA.
THAT IS *NOT* HOW POLICE PROCEDURE WORKS.
HAVE YOU OR THE FBI BUILT YOUR RACKETEERING CASE AGAINST ME?
ARE YOU READY TO SHOW IT TO A COURT?
AND WHILE YOU CONSIDER THAT QUESTION...
...READ ME THE POLICE RULE BOOK CHAPTER ON HOW TO PROPERLY DEAL WITH DEMONICALLY POSSESSED NIGHTMARE DUDES WHO WANT TO BURN THE CITY TO THE GROUND AND I WILL DEFER TO YOU.
OTHER THAN THAT, I THINK IT'S *YOUR* JUDGMENT CALL.
SO...
...WHO DO *YOU* WANT IN JAIL TONIGHT?
DEMONICALLY POSSESSED NIGHTMARE DUDE OR ME?

UH-HUH.

YEAH...

LUKE CAGE SAYS YOU TURNED A NEW LEAF.

LIFE-THREATENING DISASTER SOMETIMES *DOES* DO THAT TO YOU.

DEVIL?

SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.

WELL, FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH...

...I'M SORRY FOR ANY *STRESS* I MIGHT HAVE CAUSED OVER THE YEARS.

OH, SHE'S *SORRY!!!*

LET ME GET THE KEYS AND CALL YOU A CAR SERVICE.

WOULD THEY LIKE TO COME IN?

WE CAN ORDER CHINESE AND WATCH THE HOOD RUIN THE CITY.

PST!

I KIND OF LOVE HER.

OH, DANNY.

AH, CUZ...

...YOU WOULD HAVE LOVED THIS VIEW...

IMAGINE HOW YOU'D FEEL ABOUT IT IF...

...YOU KNOW, YOU'D EARNED IT.

BAM

BAM

BAM

DAMN!

THAT STINGS!

THE NEXT ONE'S GOING IN YOUR--

SPOKE

DOIK!

SPAASH

ARGH!

THE THING THAT *ANNOYS ME* THE MOST ABOUT YOU, ROBBINS...

AGH!

...IS YOU USE OBJECTS OF ANCIENT AND DANGEROUS POWER AND YOU HAVE *NO CLUE* WHAT IT IS YOU'RE MESSING WITH.

SEE, I JUST DON'T LIKE HIM ON A CELLULAR LEVEL.

STAY DOWN OR I'LL BREAK *THE REST* OF YOUR TEETH!

OH, BLOW IT OUT YOUR ASS!

YOU KNOW THE GUNS ARE JUST FOR SHOW, RIGHT?

SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
MY FAVORITE JACKET!!!
THAT'S IT!
HE'S GETTING THE PURPLE MAN SPECIAL!!!
HE'S GONE.
ALREADY?
THAT'S KIND OF THE POINT OF MYSTICAL POWER.
WE NEED DOCTOR STRANGE.
NO, I KNOW WHAT WE NEED.
HOWARD THE DUCK?
I SAID I WAS SORRY ABOUT THE *DEADPOOL THING.*
IT'S GONNA TAKE SOME TIME.

I DREAMT THIS.

I DREAMT OF THIS MOMENT.

LITERALLY.

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE OF OUR BUSINESS.

D'YA KNOW THE MISTAKE WISEGUYS LIKE US HAVE ALWAYS MADE? I'M TALKIN' GOING ALL THE WAY BACK TO WHEN THEY USED TO CALL IT THE MAGGIA.

THEY TRIED TO BE VICIOUS AND NOTORIOUS GANGSTERS WITH AWESOME NICKNAMES, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THEY WERE HIDING.

THEY WERE JUST HIDING FROM EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING.

BUT HERE WE ARE TODAY...

...AND I SAY, FROM NOW ON...

...*WE*-- WE'RE *ALL* THE KINGPIN.

NOT *ME*.

ALL OF US.

I'VE GATHERED YOU BEFORE, YES.

I HAVE BEEN CHASING THIS DREAM, BUT A LOT HAS CHANGED.

THE KINGPIN IS NO LONGER THE KINGPIN.

THESE ARE *SEISMIC SHIFTS* IN OUR WORLD.

SEISMIC.

DOCTOR DOOM IS NO LONGER DOCTOR DOOM, AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A LOT OF FUN WITH THAT...

IT CHANGES *EVERYTHING.*

NOW THAT WILSON FISK HAS GOTTEN HIS FAT, GREEDY FINGERS OFF OF OUR NECKS...

...WE CAN PROPERLY REWARD OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER FOR THE WORK THAT WE DO.

WHATCHA MEAN?

WE *ALL* GET TO BE THE KINGPIN?

MY VISION.

SUPER-POWERED KINGPINS IN EVERY TERRITORY DOWN THE ENTIRE EASTERN SEABOARD.

EACH OF YOU IS GOING TO BE ASSIGNED A TERRITORY.

AND YOU WILL BE THE UNDISPUTED *KINGPIN* OF *THAT* TERRITORY.

ANYONE BREAKS PROTOCOL AND THAT PERSON ANSWERS TO ME.

MEANING?

FORFEITING THEIR TERRITORY...

AND OTHER THINGS.

NOW! OBVIOUSLY WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MYSELF AS THE KINGPIN OF THE KINGPINS.

I WILL NEVER ACTUALLY CALL MYSELF THAT PUBLICLY...

YES. HE WILL.

HA.

BUT...

BUT FOR THE SAKE OF THIS CONVERSATION....

...I'LL BE THE KINGPIN OF ALL YOU KINGPINS.

YOU ARE ALL POWERFUL TYPE-A PERSONALITIES WHO DESERVE SO MUCH MORE THAN WHAT YOU HAVE.

WE'RE GOING TO CONTROL THIS ENTIRE REGION WITH LOCKED ARMS AND A--

I HAVE A QUESTION--

FLASHY AND FLAMBOYANT. THAT'S HOW YA GET KILLED.

EXACTLY.

WHAT'S TO STOP THE AVENGERS--

OR ANYONE...

JUST ASK OUR FRIEND HAMMERHEAD HERE.

YOU GUYS FIND YOURSELF DOWN THE BARREL OF A GUN, YOU HAVE ME TO BRING YOU BACK.

BZZ BOOZZZ

BUZZ BING PING

I SAID NO PHONES.

DUDE, I GOT KIDS.

BUZZ

BING PING BUZZ

HELLO?

JESSICA JONES? AS I LIVE AND BREATHE.

JUST CALLING TO SAY: PARTY'S OVER, CREEPS.

IT'S YOUR CONSCIENCE CALLING, PARKER ROBBINS.

JUST LETTING YOU KNOW YOU STILL SUCK.

AND FOR THE REST OF YOU BROKEN BABY MEN, IF YOU'RE STUPID ENOUGH TO COME WHEN THE HOOD CALLS...

...THEN YOU EARNED WHAT'S COMING TO YOU NEXT.

I THINK YOU'RE HIGHLY OVERESTIMATING WHAT THE FOUR OF YOU CAN DO.

WANNA BET?

THE END.

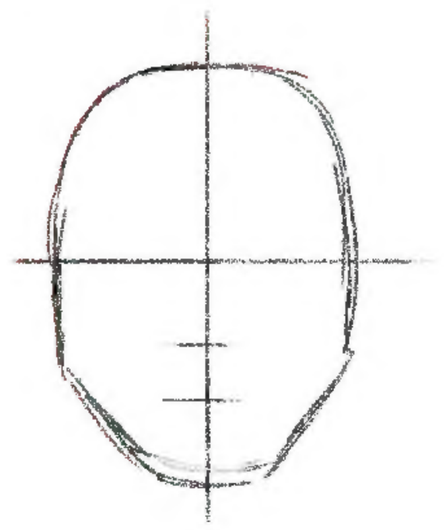
THANK YOU FROM BRIAN, DAVID AND JUSTIN.
IT HAS BEEN A TRUE HONOR.

HOW TO DRAW LUKE CAGE
IN SIX EASY STEPS!

BY CHIP "'HERO' FOR HIRE" ZDARSKY

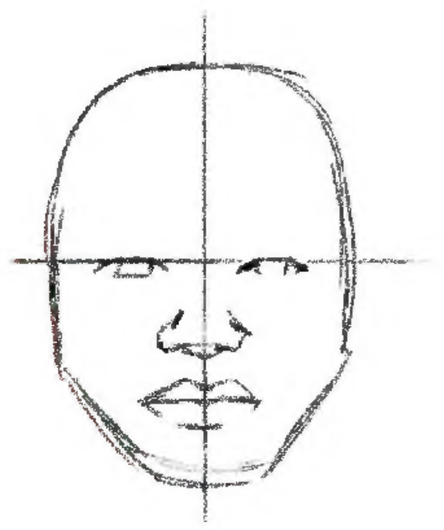
Wow! A "sketch variant cover"! A simple, yet elegant, way to get your art on the cover of a Marvel comic! Anyway, here's a fun and informative step-by-step guide to drawing LUKE CAGE!

1



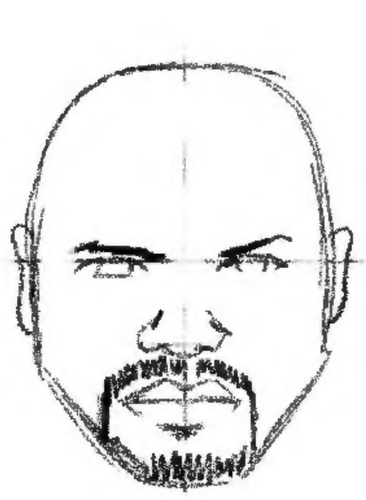
First step is to outline his head. Rounder top half, more squared-off bottom half. Then, lines to indicate center, eyeline, nose and mouth position.

2



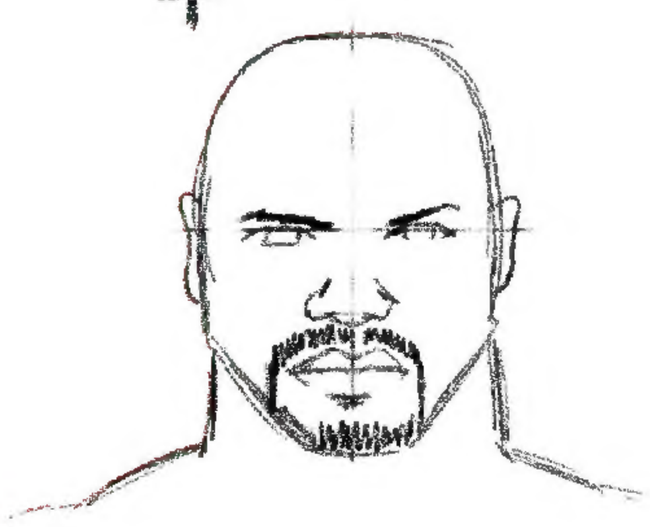
Then start to add features! Eyes roughly one eye apart, mouth slightly wider than nose.

3



Luke sports a goatee, so add that. Then some ears. Eyebrows slightly furrowed, like he's going to take on a bad guy!

4

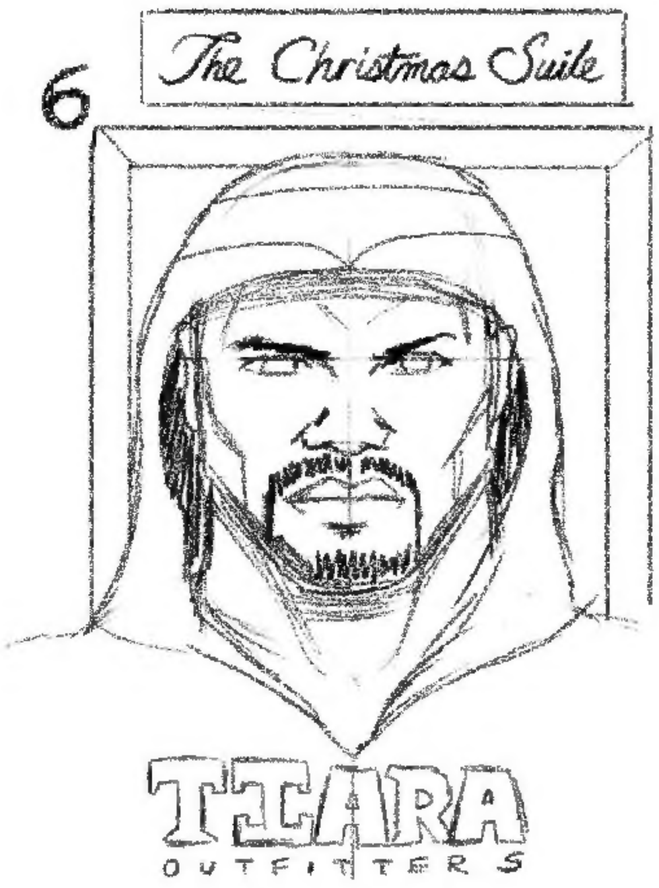


He's muscular, so go ahead and add a thick neck and trapezius, to give us more context!

5

Now he ... doesn't really have a costume anymore, but he's been known to wear a hoodie, so if you want MORE context for who he is, add one! And some fine detail and shading!

6



And finally, to REALLY let people know this is Luke, make a bunch of references to his '70s incarnation!

NO. 6 HOW TO DRAW VARIANT BY **CHIP ZDARSKY**

MARVEL

"Marquez's versatility is on full display."
– IGN

THE DEFENDERS ARE ENGAGED IN A DESPERATE STRUGGLE TO KEEP THE CITY SAFE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN

ALL-OUT GANG WAR!

SO WHAT COULD make things even worse? Would you believe – Deadpool? The Kingpin's kingdom is up for grabs, and the streets will burn as every major underworld figure makes a play to be the next lord of crime! Unfortunately for them, this is exactly why the Defenders have gathered: to fight for the people of New York! But bad press is about to have a disastrous impact on the lives of Luke and Jessica. And how exactly does Diamondback know so much about the Defenders? As Harlem burns, heroes rise and heroes fall – and there will be new Defenders.

COLLECTING ***DEFENDERS (2017) #6-10*** – BY BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS, DAVID MARQUEZ, MICHAEL AVON OEMING AND JUSTIN PONSOR.

T+

ZONE